



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Fire & Building Department
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: J. Kevin Nalder, Fire & Building Director
Matt Sullivan, Sr. Financial Analyst

Date: November 21, 2013

Subject: Award of Contract – Firefighter Turnout Gear

RECOMMENDATION:

It's recommended that the City Council awards the contract to purchase ninety-eight (98) sets of Globe G-Xtreme model firefighter turnout gear, protective jackets and trousers for structural firefighting, to L.N. Curtis & Sons for the estimated amount of \$290,175.00 for the City of Kirkland Fire Department, which includes tax.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) standards require that firefighter turnout gear be replaced every ten years, which includes boots, helmets and water and technical rescue equipment. The 2013-2018 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) allocated and approved \$518,200.00 for the replacement of all the firefighter turnout gear for City of Kirkland Fire Department starting in 2014. The Fire Department will need to replace an estimated ninety-eight sets of turnout gear, protective jackets and trousers for structural firefighting.

The remaining CIP budget of \$228,025.00 will also fund the replacement of helmets, boots, turnout gear repair equipment, water rescue turnout gear, and technical rescue turnout gear. Any remaining CIP monies will be placed into the Public Safety Sinking Fund.

The City of Kirkland Fire Department also worked with and received input from neighboring Zone One jurisdictions (Bellevue, Redmond, Shoreline, etc.) to develop additional specifications, so that Zone 1 jurisdictions may be able to piggy-back on Kirkland's contract via an interlocal agreement. The bid requested an estimated quantity of two-hundred and fifty sets due to the possibility of cooperative purchasing of neighboring jurisdictions. The City of Kirkland Fire Department will not be ordering two-hundred and fifty sets.

An invitation for bids for Firefighter Turnout Gear was advertised on October 14th and October 21st, 2013 in the Daily Journal of Commerce. Three bids were received and opened on November 1st, 2013. One bid was from L.N. Curtis & Sons and two separate bids were received

from Municipal Emergency Services (MES). After reviewing the bids and meeting with a representative from MES, it was determined that L. N. Curtis & Sons had submitted the only responsive bid meeting the City's requirements.

The technical bid specifications for the turnout gear were developed from specifications of the Globe G-Xtreme model turnout gear that is currently used by the Kirkland Fire Department. However, manufacturers and sales distributors of other brands of turnout gear were welcome to submit bids for equivalent model garments. The bids submitted by MES were for turnout gear that did not meet the bid's specifications.

L.N. Curtis & Sons was selected for recommendation of contract award due to two critical factors:

- 1- MES submitted a list of sixteen exceptions on one bid proposal (Bid A) and thirteen exceptions on their second bid proposal (Bid B). These exceptions represent technical specifications that they couldn't meet and which Kirkland requires. L.N. Curtis & Sons submitted no exceptions to the required specifications.
- 2- Kirkland currently uses and is trained to repair and maintain Globe G-Xtreme firefighter turnout gear – protective jackets and trousers for structural firefighting. Along with significant additional money needed to retrain and certify staff on the repair and maintenance of new firefighter turnout gear, there would also be significant overtime required to do so.

The bid prices per unit were as follows:

Company/Bidder	Cost of Jacket	Cost of Trousers
L.N. Curtis & Sons	\$1,517.20	\$1,186.24
MES (A)	\$1,242.50	\$974.50
MES (B)	\$1,351.31	\$1,068.62

Per the terms of the bid, the prices bid by L. N. Curtis & Sons are fixed for two years. The contract may be renewed for two additional two year periods. Price adjustments for the additional two year periods are subject to negotiation and must be mutually agreed upon prior to executing renewal agreements.